

### SENATE BILL No. 46

DIGEST OF SB 46 (Updated February 16, 1999 2:32 pm - DI 75)

Citations Affected: IC 8-1.

**Synopsis:** Utility member company board of directors. Provides that a REMC's board of directors must be composed of members of the corporation or, if the member of the REMC is a not a natural person, that the member's officers, directors, partners, or sole proprietors may be directors of the rural electric membership corporation. Provides that rural telephone cooperative corporations must annually designate and elect those officers the corporation considers necessary. Provides that a rural telephone cooperative corporation's board of directors must be composed of members of the corporation or, if the member of the corporation is a not a natural person, that the member's officers, directors, partners, or sole proprietors may be directors of the rural telephone cooperative corporation.

Effective: July 1, 1999.

# Meeks R, Lewis

January 6, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure.

February 18, 1999, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.



January 21, 1999, amended; reassigned to Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Second Regular Session 110th General Assembly (1999)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1998 General Assembly.

## **SENATE BILL No. 46**

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning utilities and transportation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 8-1-13-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 6. (a) Each corporation formed
under this chapter shall have a board of directors that constitutes the
governing body of the corporation. The directors must be members, or
if the corporation's bylaws so provide, a member's officers,
directors, or partners, or the owner of a member that is a sole
<b>proprietorship may be directors</b> of the corporation. and, other than
those Directors other than those named in its the corporation's
articles of incorporation shall be elected by the members entitled to
vote for the directors. Unless the bylaws of the corporation provide
otherwise, the directors shall be elected annually. The bylaws may
provide that:

- (1) the directors may hold office for any stated period not exceeding three (3) years;
- (2) the directors be elected so that the terms of only part of the directors expire at any one time; and
- (3) only enough directors to succeed those whose terms are about

SB 46—LS 6443/DI 13+



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1	to expire are elected in any year.
2	(b) The bylaws may provide that the territory where the members of
3	the corporation reside be apportioned into districts and prescribe the
4	procedure by which the members residing in any one (1) district may
5	nominate a director.
6	(c) The bylaws may specify a fair remuneration for the time actually
7	spent by its officers, directors, and members of its executive committee
8	in the performance of their duties and provide that the remuneration be
9	paid to the officers, directors, and members of the executive committee.
10	The officers, directors, and members of the executive committee are
11	entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of
12	their duties whether or not the bylaws provide that they be remunerated
13	for their time spent in the performance of those duties. The board shall
14	annually designate and elect those officers it considers necessary.
15	SECTION 2. IC 8-1-17-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
16	[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 6. At the time the commission
17	approves the articles of incorporation of any cooperative corporation,
18	it shall issue to it, and place on file a duplicate of, a certificate of public
19	convenience and necessity accurately describing the territory within
20	which such cooperative corporation shall be authorized to operate.
21	Thereafter, such territory may be changed by a new certificate issued
22	and filed by the commission:
23	(1) to harmonize with the result of proceedings pursuant to
24	section 21(c) of this chapter, or any other statute empowering the
25	commission to determine the territory within which any telephone
26	company or cooperative may operate; or
27	(2) to harmonize with findings made by the commission upon
28	petition for change of territory signed by the president and
29	secretary appropriate officers of the cooperative corporation,
30	accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution authorizing the
31	same duly adopted by its board of directors and also by a map
32	showing clearly both the old and the proposed new territory and
33	filed with the commission.
34	Such findings as to a local cooperative corporation shall be made only
35	after the commission ascertains whether such petition proposed a
36	change in such territory as will affect territory being served by any
37	other cooperative corporation or any telephone company.
38	SECTION 3. IC 8-1-17-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 7. (a) Each cooperative corporation

formed under this chapter shall have a board of directors, which board

shall constitute the governing body of the cooperative corporation. The

directors of a local cooperative corporation must be members, or if the



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cooperative corporation's bylaws so provide, a member's offic	ers
directors, or partners, or the owner of a member that is a	sole
proprietorship may be directors of the same and, except	as
cooperative corporation. Directors other than those named in its	the
cooperative corporation's articles of incorporation, directors of	any
cooperative corporation shall be elected by its members.	

- (b) Unless the bylaws of the cooperative corporation provide otherwise, such directors shall be elected annually. The bylaws may provide that the directors may hold office for any stated period not exceeding three (3) years, and be so elected that the terms of only part of such directors shall expire at any one (1) time and that only enough directors to succeed those whose terms are about to expire need be elected in any year.
- (c) The bylaws may provide that the area in which the members of the cooperative corporation reside shall be apportioned into districts and prescribe the procedure by which the members residing in any one (1) district may nominate a director.
- (d) The bylaws may specify a fair remuneration for the time actually spent by its officers, directors, and members of its executive committee in the performance of their duties as such and provide that the same be paid them respectively. The officers, directors, and members of the executive committee shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties whether or not the bylaws provide that they be remunerated for their time spent in such performance.
- (e) The board shall annually **designate and** elect <del>a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The president and vice president shall be elected from the members of the board of directors. those officers it considers necessary.</del>

SECTION 4. IC 8-1-17-9 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 9. (a) A cooperative corporation may issue to its members certificates of membership and each member shall be entitled to only one (1) vote on each question or election at any regular or special meetings of the cooperative corporation.

- (b) Meetings of members may be held at such place as may be provided in the bylaws. An annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time as may be provided by the bylaws. Special meetings may be called by the president, by the board of directors, by a petition signed by not less than five percent (5%) of all the members, or by such other officers or persons as may be provided in the articles of incorporation or by the bylaws.
  - (c) Written or printed notice stating the place, day, and hour of the





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meeting of members, and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the president or the secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting, to each member of record entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mails in a sealed envelope addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the cooperative corporation, with postage prepaid. Notice of meetings of members may be waived in writing.

(d) Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, two percent (2%) of all the members of the cooperative corporation present in person at any meeting of members, of which meeting notice shall have been given as provided in the foregoing subdivision (c) of this section, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at such meeting.

(e) A majority vote of those members who are present in person at any regular meeting, or at any special meeting of the members called for that purpose, shall be necessary for the taking of any action, adoption of any resolution, or the election of any officers, or otherwise, as the case may be.

SECTION 5. IC 8-1-17-23 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 23. (a) A cooperative corporation may amend its articles of incorporation to change its corporate name, to increase or reduce the number of its directors, or change any other provisions therein; provided, that any change of location of the principal office may be effected in the manner set forth in section 24 of this chapter, and further provided that no cooperative corporation shall amend its articles of incorporation to embody therein any purpose, power, or provision which would not be authorized if its original articles of incorporation, including such additional or changed purpose, power, or provision, were offered for filing at the time articles under this section are offered. Such amendment may be accomplished by filing articles of amendment which shall be entitled and endorsed "Articles of Amendment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_" (the blank space being filled in with the name of the cooperative corporation) and state:

- (1) The name of the cooperative corporation, and if it has been changed, the name under which it was originally incorporated.
- (2) The date of filing the articles of incorporation in each public office where filed.
- (3) Whether the statement of counties within which its operations





are to be conducted is to be changed, and if so the new statement of such counties.

(4) The president or vice president officer executing such articles of amendment shall make and annex thereto an affidavit stating that the provisions of this section in respect to the amendment set forth in such articles were complied with.

(b) Such articles shall be subscribed in the name of the cooperative corporation by the president or vice president, and by the secretary or the assistant secretary, appropriate officers of the corporation who shall make and annex an affidavit stating that they have been authorized to execute and file such articles by a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the cooperative corporation duly called and held as provided in section 9 of this chapter. If by any such amendment to articles of incorporation, the territory proposed to be served by the cooperative corporation is to be increased or decreased, the articles of amendment, together with a petition executed by the president, or vice president, and by the secretary or the assistant secretary appropriate **officers** of the cooperative corporation and praying for the permission of the commission shall be submitted to the commission. Thereupon, the commission shall set said petition for public hearing and shall give notice of the time and place thereof one (1) time in at least one (1) newspaper published in each of the counties in which lies any of the territory proposed to be added or omitted by such amendment, which publication shall be at least ten (10) days before such hearing. The cost of publication shall be paid by the petitioner when filing such petition. Also written notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be mailed to each telephone company operating in contiguous territory in the manner provided in section 5 of this chapter. Any interested person may appear, personally or by attorney, at such hearing and aid or oppose the prayer of the petition. After such hearing, the commission shall grant or deny the petition and make its order accordingly. No amendment increasing or decreasing the territory to be served by such cooperative corporation shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state or of any county recorder unless there be attached thereto a certified copy of an order of the commission consenting to such increase or decrease. Such articles shall be filed in the same places as the original articles of incorporation and thereupon the amendment shall be deemed to have been effected.

SECTION 6. IC 8-1-17-24 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 24. A cooperative corporation formed hereunder may change the location of its principal office by filing in the office of the secretary of state a certificate



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reciting such change of principal office and setting forth the resolution
by its board of directors authorizing such change and stating the time
and place of its adoption, which certificate shall be executed and
acknowledged by the appropriate officers of the cooperative
corporation's president or vice-president corporation with the
corporate seal attached and attested by the secretary or assistant
secretary. appropriate officer of the cooperative corporation.
SECTION 7. IC 8-1-17-25 IS AMENDED TO READ AS

SECTION 7. IC 8-1-17-25 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 25. Any cooperative corporation may dissolve by filing in the office of the secretary of state articles of dissolution which shall be entitled and endorsed "Articles of Dissolution of \_\_\_\_\_\_" (the blank space being filled in with the name of the cooperative corporation) and shall state:

- (a) (1) The name of the cooperative corporation, and if such cooperative corporation is a corporation resulting from the consolidation as provided in this chapter, the names of the original cooperative corporations.
- (b) (2) The date of filing of the articles of incorporation in the office of secretary of state and, if such cooperative corporation is a corporation resulting from a consolidation as provided in this chapter, the dates on which the articles of incorporation of the original cooperative corporations were filed in the office of secretary of state.
- (c) (3) That the cooperative corporation elects to dissolve.
- (d) (4) The name and post office address of each of its directors, and the name, title, and post office address of each of its officers. Such articles shall be subscribed and acknowledged by the president or a vice president and the secretary or an assistant secretary, appropriate officers of the cooperative corporation who shall make and annex an affidavit stating that they have been authorized to execute and file such articles by a resolution duly adopted by the members of the cooperative corporation at a meeting thereof duly called and held as provided in section 9 of this chapter. Articles of dissolution or a certified copy or copies thereof shall be filed in the same places as original articles of incorporation, and thereupon the cooperative corporation shall be deemed to be dissolved. Such cooperative corporation shall continue for the purpose of paying, satisfying, and discharging any existing liabilities or obligations and collecting or liquidating its assets, and doing all other acts required to adjust and wind up its business affairs, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name. Any assets remaining after all liabilities and obligations of the cooperative corporation have been satisfied and discharged shall be refunded pro rata to the patrons,



1	their assignees, personal representatives, heirs, or legatees, who shall
2	have paid for telephone service rendered by the cooperative
3	corporation, within a five (5) year period next preceding such
4	dissolution. Any assets not so refunded within a two (2) year period
5	after such dissolution is completed shall pass to and become the
6	property of the state of Indiana.

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#### COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 46, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### (SEE TEXT OF BILL)

and when so amended that said bill be reassigned to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

(Reference is to SB 46 as introduced.)

GARTON, Chairperson

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### SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senator Lewis be added as second author of Senate Bill 46.

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#### COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 46, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 1, line 6, delete "partners, or owners of sole proprietorships" and insert "or partners, or the owner of a member that is a sole proprietorship".

Page 2, after line 13, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 2. IC 8-1-17-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 6. At the time the commission approves the articles of incorporation of any cooperative corporation, it shall issue to it, and place on file a duplicate of, a certificate of public convenience and necessity accurately describing the territory within which such cooperative corporation shall be authorized to operate. Thereafter, such territory may be changed by a new certificate issued and filed by the commission:

- (1) to harmonize with the result of proceedings pursuant to section 21(c) of this chapter, or any other statute empowering the commission to determine the territory within which any telephone company or cooperative may operate; or
- (2) to harmonize with findings made by the commission upon petition for change of territory signed by the president and secretary appropriate officers of the cooperative corporation, accompanied by a certified copy of a resolution authorizing the same duly adopted by its board of directors and also by a map showing clearly both the old and the proposed new territory and filed with the commission.

Such findings as to a local cooperative corporation shall be made only after the commission ascertains whether such petition proposed a change in such territory as will affect territory being served by any other cooperative corporation or any telephone company.

SECTION 3. IC 8-1-17-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 7. (a) Each cooperative corporation formed under this chapter shall have a board of directors, which board shall constitute the governing body of the cooperative corporation. The directors of a local cooperative corporation must be members, or if the cooperative corporation's bylaws so provide, a member's officers, directors, or partners, or the owner of a member that is a sole proprietorship may be directors of the same and, except as cooperative corporation. Directors other than those named in its the

SB 46—LS 6443/DI 13+









**cooperative corporation's** articles of incorporation, directors of any cooperative corporation shall be elected by its members.

- (b) Unless the bylaws of the cooperative corporation provide otherwise, such directors shall be elected annually. The bylaws may provide that the directors may hold office for any stated period not exceeding three (3) years, and be so elected that the terms of only part of such directors shall expire at any one (1) time and that only enough directors to succeed those whose terms are about to expire need be elected in any year.
- (c) The bylaws may provide that the area in which the members of the cooperative corporation reside shall be apportioned into districts and prescribe the procedure by which the members residing in any one (1) district may nominate a director.
- (d) The bylaws may specify a fair remuneration for the time actually spent by its officers, directors, and members of its executive committee in the performance of their duties as such and provide that the same be paid them respectively. The officers, directors, and members of the executive committee shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties whether or not the bylaws provide that they be remunerated for their time spent in such performance.
- (e) The board shall annually **designate and** elect a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The president and vice president shall be elected from the members of the board of directors. those officers it considers necessary.

SECTION 4. IC 8-1-17-9 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 9. (a) A cooperative corporation may issue to its members certificates of membership and each member shall be entitled to only one (1) vote on each question or election at any regular or special meetings of the cooperative corporation.

- (b) Meetings of members may be held at such place as may be provided in the bylaws. An annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time as may be provided by the bylaws. Special meetings may be called by the president, by the board of directors, by a petition signed by not less than five percent (5%) of all the members, or by such other officers or persons as may be provided in the articles of incorporation or by the bylaws.
- (c) Written or printed notice stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting of members, and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the







president or the secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting, to each member of record entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mails in a sealed envelope addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the cooperative corporation, with postage prepaid. Notice of meetings of members may be waived in writing.

- (d) Unless otherwise provided in the articles of incorporation, two percent (2%) of all the members of the cooperative corporation present in person at any meeting of members, of which meeting notice shall have been given as provided in the foregoing subdivision (c) of this section, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at such meeting.
- (e) A majority vote of those members who are present in person at any regular meeting, or at any special meeting of the members called for that purpose, shall be necessary for the taking of any action, adoption of any resolution, or the election of any officers, or otherwise, as the case may be.

SECTION 5. IC 8-1-17-23 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 23. (a) A cooperative corporation may amend its articles of incorporation to change its corporate name, to increase or reduce the number of its directors, or change any other provisions therein; provided, that any change of location of the principal office may be effected in the manner set forth in section 24 of this chapter, and further provided that no cooperative corporation shall amend its articles of incorporation to embody therein any purpose, power, or provision which would not be authorized if its original articles of incorporation, including such additional or changed purpose, power, or provision, were offered for filing at the time articles under this section are offered. Such amendment may be accomplished by filing articles of amendment which shall be entitled and endorsed "Articles of Amendment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_" (the blank space being filled in with the name of the cooperative corporation) and state:

- (1) The name of the cooperative corporation, and if it has been changed, the name under which it was originally incorporated.
- (2) The date of filing the articles of incorporation in each public office where filed.
- (3) Whether the statement of counties within which its operations are to be conducted is to be changed, and if so the new statement of such counties.
- (4) The president or vice president officer executing such articles of amendment shall make and annex thereto an affidavit stating









that the provisions of this section in respect to the amendment set forth in such articles were complied with.

(b) Such articles shall be subscribed in the name of the cooperative corporation by the president or vice president, and by the secretary or the assistant secretary, appropriate officers of the corporation who shall make and annex an affidavit stating that they have been authorized to execute and file such articles by a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the cooperative corporation duly called and held as provided in section 9 of this chapter. If by any such amendment to articles of incorporation, the territory proposed to be served by the cooperative corporation is to be increased or decreased, the articles of amendment, together with a petition executed by the president, or vice president, and by the secretary or the assistant secretary appropriate **officers** of the cooperative corporation and praying for the permission of the commission shall be submitted to the commission. Thereupon, the commission shall set said petition for public hearing and shall give notice of the time and place thereof one (1) time in at least one (1) newspaper published in each of the counties in which lies any of the territory proposed to be added or omitted by such amendment, which publication shall be at least ten (10) days before such hearing. The cost of publication shall be paid by the petitioner when filing such petition. Also written notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be mailed to each telephone company operating in contiguous territory in the manner provided in section 5 of this chapter. Any interested person may appear, personally or by attorney, at such hearing and aid or oppose the prayer of the petition. After such hearing, the commission shall grant or deny the petition and make its order accordingly. No amendment increasing or decreasing the territory to be served by such cooperative corporation shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state or of any county recorder unless there be attached thereto a certified copy of an order of the commission consenting to such increase or decrease. Such articles shall be filed in the same places as the original articles of incorporation and thereupon the amendment shall be deemed to have been effected.

SECTION 6. IC 8-1-17-24 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 24. A cooperative corporation formed hereunder may change the location of its principal office by filing in the office of the secretary of state a certificate reciting such change of principal office and setting forth the resolution by its board of directors authorizing such change and stating the time and place of its adoption, which certificate shall be executed and acknowledged by the **appropriate officers of the** cooperative



corporation's president or vice-president corporation with the corporate seal attached and attested by the secretary or assistant secretary, appropriate officer of the cooperative corporation.

SECTION 7. IC 8-1-17-25 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: Sec. 25. Any cooperative corporation may dissolve by filing in the office of the secretary of state articles of dissolution which shall be entitled and endorsed "Articles of Dissolution of \_\_\_\_\_\_" (the blank space being filled in with the name of the cooperative corporation) and shall state:

- (a) (1) The name of the cooperative corporation, and if such cooperative corporation is a corporation resulting from the consolidation as provided in this chapter, the names of the original cooperative corporations.
- (b) (2) The date of filing of the articles of incorporation in the office of secretary of state and, if such cooperative corporation is a corporation resulting from a consolidation as provided in this chapter, the dates on which the articles of incorporation of the original cooperative corporations were filed in the office of secretary of state.
- (c) (3) That the cooperative corporation elects to dissolve.
- (d) (4) The name and post office address of each of its directors, and the name, title, and post office address of each of its officers. Such articles shall be subscribed and acknowledged by the president or a vice president and the secretary or an assistant secretary, appropriate officers of the cooperative corporation who shall make and annex an affidavit stating that they have been authorized to execute and file such articles by a resolution duly adopted by the members of the cooperative corporation at a meeting thereof duly called and held as provided in section 9 of this chapter. Articles of dissolution or a certified copy or copies thereof shall be filed in the same places as original articles of incorporation, and thereupon the cooperative corporation shall be deemed to be dissolved. Such cooperative corporation shall continue for the purpose of paying, satisfying, and discharging any existing liabilities or obligations and collecting or liquidating its assets, and doing all other acts required to adjust and wind up its business affairs, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name. Any assets remaining after all liabilities and obligations of the cooperative corporation have been satisfied and discharged shall be refunded pro rata to the patrons, their assignees, personal representatives, heirs, or legatees, who shall have paid for telephone service rendered by the cooperative corporation, within a five (5) year period next preceding such dissolution. Any assets not so refunded within a two (2) year period



SB 46—LS 6443/DI 13+







after such dissolution is completed shall pass to and become the property of the state of Indiana.".

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 46 as reprinted January 22, 1999.)

MILLS, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0.

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